

## NEW JERSEY CLEAN AIR COUNCIL

<b><u>Clean Air Council Members</u></b> John Valeri Jr., Esq., Chair Allen Weston, Vice-Chair Leonard Bielory, M.D. Robert Campbell Maria Connolly, PP, AICP Michael Egenton	<b><u>Clean Air Council Members</u></b> Toby Hanna, P.E. Sandra Howland Andrew McNally Stephen Milgrom Richard Opiekun, Ph.D. Scott Ross
<b><u>Clean Air Council Liaison</u></b> Heidi Jones, 609-777-0598 <a href="mailto:Heidi.Jones@dep.nj.gov">Heidi.Jones@dep.nj.gov</a>	<b><u>NJ Clean Air Council Website:</u></b> <a href="http://www.state.nj.us/dep/cleanair">http://www.state.nj.us/dep/cleanair</a>

### New Jersey Clean Air Council Meeting Record

Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

CALL TO ORDER	John Valeri opened the meeting.
COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT	All Council members were present with the changes noted below.
EXCUSED	Scott Ross
PUBLIC	Kimberly Scarborough, PSEG Joann Held
NJ DEP Staff	Francis Steitz Ken Ratzman Heidi Jones Helaine Barr Sharon Davis Luis Lim Bob Kettig Paul Orlando Olga Boyko

### **Meeting Record**

- Leonard Bielory made a motion to approve the December meeting minutes; Richard Opiekun seconded the motion. Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.
- 2021 hearing topic was discussed The hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, 2021 via Microsoft Teams. Material will be updated on the council's webpage as it becomes available.
- Two presentations were given; one by Luis Lim on benzene during COVID and the other given by Paul Orlando, Bob Kettig, and Helaine Barr on the 80x50 report. Presentations will be posted on the council's webpage.
- Leonard Bielory made a motion to adjourn; Richard Opiekun seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 11:48am.

### **Administrative Report**

*Presented by Francis Steitz, Director of Air Quality*

1. Charge Up New Jersey Update -- On December 14, 2020, NJBPU announced that Phase One of the Charge Up New Jersey electric vehicle incentive program will close on December 15, 2020, having disbursed an estimated \$30 million for nearly 6,000 new EVs. The program's online portal will remain open until March 15, 2021 for applicants to request a rebate for eligible vehicles purchased between January 17 and December 15, 2020. NJBPU anticipates the next phase of the program will begin July 2021 and will be designed as a "cash on the hood" program.
2. NJ's Growing Electric Vehicle Registrations -- Analysis of vehicle registration data as of June 2020 shows continued growth in electric vehicles registrations in NJ; 34,038 electric vehicles, with 64% (21,813) pure electric. The growth rate of zero emission vehicles is steeper than that of plug in hybrid electric vehicles. In comparison, the total number of electric vehicles registered 6 months prior in December 2019 was 29,960. The most popular 2020 models registered in NJ are: Tesla Model 3, Toyota Prius Prime, Tesla Model X, Tesla Model S, and Chevrolet Bolt.
3. Destination Electric Update -- Destination Electric, a "Drive Change. Drive Electric." regional electric vehicle consumer awareness campaign, has re-emerged following the COVID-19 shutdown. After recent NJDEP outreach to Jersey City -- one of two Destination Electric towns in the state -- NJ is nearly tied with New Hampshire for the highest number of business enrolled in the 7-state program. Jersey City also jumped from 6th in number of businesses pre-COVID to 3rd, just trailing behind Princeton, NJ and Portsmouth, NH. Unable to speak with business owners in person due to COVID safety guidelines, Air Quality staff reached to Jersey City businesses by phone, email and social media to describe the benefits of enrolling in Destination Electric. Patrons recognize a Destination Electric business through storefront decals and know that they are within walking distance to an electric vehicle charging station. Outreach will continue in both Jersey City and Princeton in the coming weeks.
4. Permitting Application for Cannabis Facility Incinerator -- On December 11, 2020, TerrAscend submitted an application for a small-scale incinerator for the destruction of cannabis plant waste at its medical cannabis alternative treatment center in Boonton Township, Morris County. The maximum waste processing capacity of the incinerator is listed as 50 lb/hr. Air Quality staff is reviewing the application as a high priority since there have been numerous odor complaints from the nearby communities.
5. Aries Kearny Biochar Production Facility -- On December 23, 2020, Aries Clean Energy submitted an air permit application for Aries Kearny Biochar Production Facility in Hudson County to process biosolids (dewatered sewage sludge) through a fluidized bed gasification unit to produce biochar. This would be the third biochar location in New Jersey for Aries Clean Energy; Aries Linden in Union County has an approved air permit and Aries Newark in Essex County has a pending air permit application under review.

6. EEW Group Offshore Wind Structures – On December 28, 2020, Air Quality approved EEW Group’s air permits allowing the installation and operation of paint booths, paint mixers, filtration wall controls, and welding stations used to manufacture monopiles, the base structures for offshore wind turbines. The surface coating operations have the potential to emit 19 tons per year of volatile organic compounds (VOC) and 9.23 tons per year of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) including 5.04 tons per year of ethylbenzene and 4.19 tons per year of xylene. Air dispersion modeling and facility-wide health risk assessment demonstrated that the maximum predicted annual concentration of ethylbenzene is negligible. All emissions from the welding operations were below reporting thresholds.
7. Seaside Cemetery Permit Approval -- On January 6, 2021, Air Quality approved a permit application for one additional human cremation retort at Seaside Cemetery Co, a minor air facility located in Marmora. The facility is now permitted to operate three human cremation retorts with a combined processing rate for the facility of 500 pounds per hour. The facility will monitor and record the temperature at the exit of the secondary chamber, charge rate, and the hours of operation to ensure that the emission limits of the permit are not exceeded. No comments were received during the permit’s public comment period.
8. Community Corner Mapping Application Update –Air Quality recently added New Jersey’s air monitoring sites to its "What's in My Community?" interactive mapping tool. When a user clicks on an air monitor site, the application provides links to the hourly air pollutant monitoring data available for that site. Data is displayed with the corresponding Air Quality Index (AQI) number and color to denote what the air quality level currently is for each of the 5 criteria pollutants. The AQI is divided into six categories with each corresponding to a different health concern level via color coding.
9. USEPA Retains Obama-Era Ozone Standard – On December 23, 2020, the USEPA completed its review of the ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) and issued its decision to retain the existing primary and secondary standards established in 2015. These standards are 0.070 parts per million as the 4th highest daily maximum 8-hour concentration average across 3 consecutive years. Subsequently, On January 13, 2021, New Jersey joined California, 15 other states and New York City in filing a suit in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit over the decision to leave the fine particulate matter National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) unchanged for another 5 years despite evidence that they aren’t protective enough of public health. While EPA career staff had concluded that the current annual average limit was effectively contributing to thousands of premature deaths each year, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler cited the determination of an official advisory committee that those conclusions were clouded by uncertainty.
10. Regional Haze -- On January 4, 2021, New Jersey submitted comments on Texas’ proposed Regional Haze SIP revision because of that state’s identified contributions to visibility impairment in the Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Visibility Union MANE-VU region, which includes New Jersey’s Class I area at the Brigantine Wilderness Area of the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. The main focus of the comments related to our analysis identifying Texas as a significant contributor and Texas’ failure to include the reasonable emission reduction strategies needed to improve visibility conditions in the region over the 2018-2028 planning period that New Jersey and MANE-VU developed in their proposed SIP, as required by the Federal Regional Haze rule.

#### **2021 MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS (tentative)**

**Meeting will be 9am – 11:30am, every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.**

January 20	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
February 17	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
March 17	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
April 21	Public Hearing - Microsoft Teams Meeting.
May 19	Microsoft Teams Meeting.

June 16	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
July 21	Microsoft Teams Meeting. - present report to commissioner (tentative).
August 18	No meeting. (Microsoft Teams Meeting, only if needed)
September 15	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
October 20	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
November 17	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
December 15	Microsoft Teams Meeting.